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Attorneys for Plaintiff, Playboy Enterprises International, Inc.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CV13-9349AGR

PLAYBOY ENTERPRISES INTERNATIONAL, INC., a California

13 corporation,

Plaintiffs.

V.

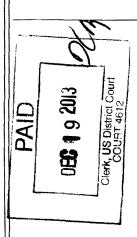
LE BOOK PUBLISHING, INC., a New York corporation; and DOES 1-10, inclusive.

Defendants.

Case No.

COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL



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PLAYBOY ENTERPRISES INTERNATIONAL, INC. ("Playboy"), by and through its attorneys of record, complains against LE BOOK PUBLISHING, INC. ("Le Book"), a New York corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, (collectively, "Defendants") as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This is a civil action seeking damages and injunctive relief against Defendants Le Book and DOES 1 through 10 for willful copyright infringement in violation of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq.
- This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. 2. §§ 101 et seq., 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a) (copyright).
- Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c) and 28 3. U.S.C. § 1400(a) in that the claim arises in this Judicial District, the Defendants may be found and transact business in this Judicial District, and the injury suffered by Plaintiff took place in this Judicial District.
- 4. Defendants are subject to the general and specific personal jurisdiction of this Court because of their extensive contacts with the State of California. Specifically, and inter alia, Defendants have engaged in direct, contributory, vicarious, and/or otherwise induced acts of copyright infringement in this judicial district. Further, Defendants have engaged in continuous and systematic business in California and, upon information and belief, derive substantial revenues from commercial activities in California. Plaintiff is informed and believes and, upon such, alleges that Defendants have also engaged in a multiplicity of acts directed toward California, including without limitation: soliciting and engaging in numerous commercial transactions in California and with California businesses, publishing an edition—Le Book West Coast—that specifics targets California individuals and business, using the lure of infringing materials to openly encourage California users to visit its website, www.lebook.com, and organizing and hosting events. including "global-scale" trade shows, in this judicial district. As a result, there is a direct and substantial nexus between Playboy's claims in this case and Defendants' transaction of business with Californians.

PARTIES

- 5. Plaintiff Playboy is a corporation formed under the laws of the state of Delaware with its principal place of business in this judicial district at 9346 Civic Center Drive, Suite 200, Beverly Hills, California 90210.
- 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes and, upon such, alleges that Defendant Le Book is a corporation organized under the laws of the state of New York with its corporate office at 552 Broadway 6th Floor, New York, New York 10012.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

Playboy's Iconic Photographs of Kate Moss

- 7. In December of 1953, the first issue of Playboy magazine hit the newsstands. With superstar Marilyn Monroe gracing its cover, the periodical quickly made an indelible mark on the international cultural landscape. Sixty years later, the magazine is still thriving and, to celebrate its diamond anniversary, Playboy selected another global icon—supermodel Kate Moss—to appear on the cover of its special Sixtieth Anniversary issue and in an unprecedented, 18-page feature spread.
- 8. Playboy commissioned noted fashion photographers Marcus Pigott and Mert Atlas to take the images of Ms. Moss ("the Photos") and they delivered stunning results that channeled the magazine's trademark iconography, including the traditional Playboy Bunny ensemble, in a series of bold and captivating color and black-and-white images. Since the Sixtieth Anniversary issue's recent release, the Photos have received widespread critical acclaim and praise as instant classics. The Photos therefore carry tremendous economic value and cultural resonance.
- 9. Marcus Pigott and Mert Atlas are the authors of the Photos and Playboy is the exclusive licensee thereto and has secured the rights to the Photos, has complied with all necessary provisions of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §101, et seq., and has registered the copyrights thereto with the Copyright Office. On or about August 8, 2013, the Photos were preregistered with the United States Copyright Office and acknowledgement thereof was received as Preregistration Number PRE0000006560. On December 2 and December 10,

2013, the Photos were timely registered with the United States Copyright Office and acknowledgement thereof was received as case numbers 1-1045269067 and 1-1064671402.

The Defendants and Their Willful Infringing Activity

- 10. Defendant Le Book bills itself as a leading provider, curator and portal for "photography, film, video production and event-related services" for over 50,000 creative professionals, including "the most famed photographers, art directors, stylists and model agencies; the most lauded producers, locational finders, photo labs, rental studios, event spaces and caterers; the pre-eminent record labels, magazines, advertising agencies, fashion designers and PR firms." Le Book purports to possess "an unparalleled global presence," and, among other things, in 2010, launched an edition entitled "Le Book West Coast" that targets the creative community in Southern California and, in 2011, organized and hosted Connections, a "global-scale tradeshow for the creative community that features thousands of artists, portfolios, and professionals," in this judicial district.
- 11. As a self-described "must for everything and everyone that propels the creative industry," Le Book is a sophisticated corporation operating at the upper echelons of the creative world and, as such, is readily familiar with the strictures of federal copyright law.
- 12. Despite their sophistication on basic matters of intellectual property law, Defendants have violated federal law by willfully infringing the copyrights to the Photos. Specifically, and inter alia, Defendants have reproduced, distributed and publicly displayed the Photo, and derivative thereof, on their website without permission, consent or license from Plaintiff, the exclusive rightsholder to the Photos, and have therefore directly infringed Playboy's rights thereto.
- 13. Specifically, Defendants own and operate the website located at the URL http://www.lebook.com, where they have reproduced, distributed and publicly displayed high-resolution copies of the Playboy cover with Kate Moss and the entire 18 page-spread featuring the Photos of Kate Moss *in toto*, including the entire text and interview with Kate Moss. On information and belief, the infringing materials appeared on their website only

days, if not hours, after Playboy's release of its special Sixtieth Anniversary issue. The brazenness of the infringement is further magnified by the fact that the infringement appears to be the product of direct, high resolution reproduction/scanning of Playboy's magazine, as even the page numbers therefrom appear in the infringing images.

- 14. To make matters worse, Le Book conveniently provides browsers of its infringing content with a series of icons and options just below the Photos. Inter alia, these icons and options enable users to blow up the Photos into even larger, high-resolution shots, print their own (infringing) copies of the entire spread, and "share" the infringing content with others via email and social networks such as Facebook. In the process, therefore. Defendants have not just willfully and directly infringed Playboy's copyrights; they have also enabled and facilitated countless additional acts of infringement by third parties.
- 15. Defendants possess no valid permission, consent, or license to reproduce, publicly display, distribute or make any other use of the Photos. As such, Defendants' unauthorized exploitation of the Photo violates of Playboy's exclusive rights to the Photos, as secured under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 106, and constitutes wholesale copyright infringement.
- 16. It is unknown how long these alleged violations have been occurring. However, violation of Playboy's exclusive rights under 17 U.S.C. § 106 appear to be ongoing, wanton and in willful disregard of Playboy's legal rights.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Copyright Infringement, 17 U.S.C. § 501)

- 17. Plaintiff Playboy incorporates here by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 16 above.
- 18. Playboy is the exclusive licensee of copyrights to the Photos, which substantially consist of material wholly original with its authors and which are copyright subject matter under the laws of the United States. Playboy has complied in all respects with the Copyright Act and all of the laws of the United States governing copyrights. The

 Photos have been timely registered with the United States Copyright Office.

- 19. Defendants have directly, vicariously and/or contributorily infringed, and unless enjoined, will continue to infringe Playboy's copyrights by reproducing, displaying, distributing and utilized the Photos for purposes of trade violation of 17 U.S.C. § 501 et seq.
- 20. Defendants have willfully infringed, and unless enjoined, will continue to infringe Playboy's copyrights by knowingly reproducing, displaying, distributing and utilizing the Photos for purposes of trade.
- 21. Defendants have also knowingly induced, caused or materially contributed to the infringing conduct of third parties and/or have obtained a direct financial benefit therefrom while possessing the right and ability to control the infringing conduct of third parties.
- 22. Defendants have received substantial benefits in connection with the unauthorized reproduction, display, distribution and utilization of the Photos for purposes of trade, including the procurement of illicitly and improperly obtained licensing fees.
- 23. All of the Defendant's acts are and were performed without the permission, license or consent of Playboy.
- 24. The said wrongful acts of Defendants have caused, and are causing, great injury to Playboy, which damage cannot be accurately computed, and unless this Court restrains Defendants from further commission of said acts, Playboy will suffer irreparable injury, for all of which it is without an adequate remedy at law. Accordingly, Playboy seeks a declaration that Defendants are infringing Playboy's copyrights and an order under 17 U.S.C. § 502 enjoining Defendants from any further infringement of Playboy's copyrights.
- 25. As a result of the acts of Defendants alleged herein, Playboy has suffered and is suffering substantial damage to its business in the form of diversion of trade, loss of profits, injury to goodwill and reputation, and the dilution of the value of its rights, all of which are not yet fully ascertainable.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request judgment against Defendants as follows:

- For an order permanently enjoining Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, representatives, and attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with them, from designing, copying, reproducing, displaying, promoting, advertising, distributing, or selling, or engaging in any other form of dealing or transaction in, any and all products and services (including advertising and promotional materials, print media, signs, internet web sites, or any other media related thereto), either now known or hereafter devised, that infringe, contributorily infringe, vicariously infringe, or induce infringement of Plaintiff's copyrights in and to the Photos.
- 2. For the entry of a seizure order directing the U.S. Marshall to seize and impound all items possessed, owned or under the control of Defendants, their officers, agents, servants, employees, representatives and attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with them, which infringe upon Playboy's copyrights, including but not limited to any and all broadcasting materials, advertising materials, print media, signs, Internet web sites, domain names, computer hard drives, servers or any other media, either now known or hereafter devised, bearing any design or mark which infringe, contributorily infringe, or vicariously infringe upon Playboy's copyrights in the Photos as well as all business records related thereto, including, but not limited to, lists of advertisers, clients, customers, viewers, distributors, invoices, catalogs, and the like.
- 3. For actual damages and disgorgement of all profits derived by Defendants from their acts of copyright infringement and to reimburse Playboy for all damages suffered by Plaintiffs by reasons of Defendants' acts. pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 504 (a)(1) & (b).
- 4. For an accounting of all profits, income, receipts or other benefit derived by Defendants from the reproduction, copying, display, promotion, distribution or sale of products and services, or other media, either now known or hereafter devised, that improperly or unlawfully infringe upon Playboy's copyrights pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§

COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury as to all claims and all issues properly triable thereby.

Dated: December 18, 2013

ONE LLP

John Tehranian

Attorney for Plaintiff,

Playboy Enterprises International, Inc.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS (Che	ck box if you are repre	esenting yourself	DEFENDANTS	DEFENDANTS (Check box if you are representing yourself)					
PLAYBOY ENTERPRISES INTER	RNATIONAL, INC., a Califo	ornia corporation,	LE BOOK PUBLISHING	LE BOOK PUBLISHING, INC., a New York corporation; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,					
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plain	tiff Los Angeles	County of Reside	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant					
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASI	ES)		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CAS	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name representing yourself, pro ONE LLP 4000 MACARTHUR BLVD., EA NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660 (949) 502-2870	vide the same informa			Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number) If you are representing yourself, provide the same information.					
	TION (Place an X in o	ne box only.)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PR	INCIPAL PARTIES-For D	iversity Cases Only				
11. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.) 1. U.S. Government			(Place an X in one bo	Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant) PTF DEF n of This State					
2. U.S. Government Defendant	4. Diversity (I of Parties in I	ndicate Citizenship Item III)	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	f 2 2 Foreign Nation 0 0					
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X	in one box only.)				NA. de:				
1. Original 2. F	, .	3. Remanded from Appellate Court		ensferred from Another	Multi- District tigation				
V. REQUESTED IN COM	MPLAINT: JURY DE	MAND: X Yes	No (Check "Yes" o	nly if demanded in com	olaint.)				
CLASS ACTION under	F.R.Cv.P. 23:	Yes 😠 No	× MONEY DEMA	NDED IN COMPLAINT:	\$ To be determined				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	(Cite the U.S. Civil Statut	e under which you are fi	ing and write a brief statemer	nt of cause. Do not cite jurisdi	ctional statutes unless diversity.)				
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT									
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one box only).									
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one bo	ox only).							
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (OTHER STATUTES	Place an X in one bo	ex only).	T. IMMIGRATION	PRISONER PETITIONS	PROPERTY RIGHTS				
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CIVIL COVER SHEET

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VIII. VENUE: Your answers to the questions below will determine the division of the Court to which this case will most likely be initially assigned. This initial assignment is subject to change, in accordance with the Court's General Orders, upon review by the Court of your Complaint or Notice of Removal.

Question A: Was this case removed state court?	from	STATE CASE WAS PENDING IN THE COUNTY OF:				INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD IS:			
Yes X No		L	os Angeles				Western		
If "no, " go to Question B. If "yes," chec		_ v	entura, Santa Barbara, or San	Luis Obisp	90		Western		
box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to		[] o	range				Southern		
Question D, below, and skip to Section	n IX.	☐ R	iverside or San Bernardino				Eastern		
Question B: Is the United States, or one of its agencies or employees, a party to this action? Yes No		If the United States, or one of its ag A PLAINTIFF? Then check the box below for the county in which the majority of DEFENDANTS reside.		A DEFENDANT? Then check the box below for the county in which the majority of PLAINTIFFS reside.		county in	INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD IS:		
If "no, " go to Question C. If "yes," checlbox to the right that applies, enter the			os Angeles			Los Angeles		Western	
corresponding division in response to		Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo		Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo		Western			
Question D, below, and skip to Section	n IX.	Orange		☐ Orange			Southern		
		Riverside or San Bernardino		Riverside or San Bernardino			Eastern		
		Other			Other			Western	
		B. Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luís Obispo Counties	C. Orange (D. Riverside or San Bernardino Counties		E. de the Central ct of California	F. Other	
Indicate the location in which a majority of plaintiffs reside:	×	X							
Indicate the location in which a majority of defendants reside:									
Indicate the location in which a majority of claims arose:									
C.1. Is either of the following true? 2 or more answers in Colum		neck th	e one that applies:	C.2. Is	_	f the following true? If s		one that applies:	
only 1 answer in Column C and no answers in Column D			only 1 answer in Column D and no answers in Column C						
Your case will initially be assigned to the SOUTHERN DIVISION. Enter "Southern" in response to Question D, below. If none applies, answer question C2 to the right.				Your case will initially be assigned to the EASTERN DIVISION. Enter "Eastern" in response to Question D, below. If none applies, go to the box below.					
			Your case will i WES Enter "Western" in r	TERN DIVIS	ION.				
Question D: Initial Division?						INITIAL DIV	ISION IN CAC	.D	
Enter the initial division determined by Question A, B, or C above:			WESTERN						

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

X(a). IDENTICAL CAS	SES : Has this ac	tion been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed?	X NO	YES
If yes, list case numb	oer(s):			
X(b). RELATED CASE	S : Have any cas	es been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case?	× NO	YES
If yes, list case numb	ber(s):			
Civil cases are deemed	related if a previo	usly filed case and the present case:		
(Check all boxes that app	ly) 🔲 A. Arise	from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or		
	B. Call fo	or determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fa	ict; or	
	C. For ot	her reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges;	or	
	D. Invol	ve the same patent, trademark or copyright, <u>and</u> one of the factors identified above in	a, b or c also is pre	esent.
X. SIGNATURE OF AT (OR SELF-REPRESENT		: Min Tehranian DAT	E: December	18, 2013
other papers as required by	law. This form, ap	Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor suppleme proved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is require prose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions)	d pursuant to Loca	l Rule 3-1 is not filed
Key to Statistical codes relat	ting to Social Secu	rity Cases:		
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action		
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Include claims by hospitals, skilled pursing facilities, etc., for certification as provide		

Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))